

February 2012

Highlights



The City of Cedar Hill, Texas



Reserve your plot by calling 972.291.7323



or visit www.cedarhilltx.com/garden to sign up



Community Garden takes root

Many have planted the seed of an idea to have a community garden in Cedar Hill. This year it is about to take root and grow, of all places, near the library.

According to Library Manager Kim Risner, plans are underway to host several beds, as a test community garden, just west of the library.

Beds will soon be built by the Parks staff under the direction of the Public Works department.

Neighborhood Services will be instrumental in encouraging residents to participate in the gardens either by providing expertise, materials or sweat equity.

As community gardens have caught on in other places they often

spread out into neighborhoods, convenient for neighbors.

Risner said this year the community garden will be incorporated into the summer reading program.

As several departments scramble to gather the resources for a project like this Risner worries if there will be enough participation to justify the effort.

"Community gardening brings people of all ages and all types together," she said. "And there are so many benefits related to health, diet, exercise, bonding, and even security."

Get free help with filing taxes

On Tuesdays, from 10:30 a.m. until about 2 p.m., at the Library, volunteers from AARP will help with your taxes. They will be there until Tuesday, April 10. This is a free service. Bring your tax records.



Uptown turn lane, light, help flow

Construction in the FM1382/Uptown Blvd. area will smooth the traffic flow through two important corridors, according to Elias Sassoon, Public Works Director.

A second left turn lane is being added from Uptown Blvd. onto FM1382. This will allow more cars to pass through the in-

tersection during each light cycle, relieving congestion at that intersection.

Data from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) show an average of about 3,000 vehicles a day on FM1382.

At the southern entrance to Walmart, a full, 4-way signal will

Continues on page 2



Alerts



The City of Cedar Hill uses a recorded message system to quickly distribute important information to residents.

If you no longer have a home phone, the City may not be able to get the message to you.

The City asks that you visit the website below and add your cell phone number(s) and email address. Your information will not be available to telemarketers.

Messages are sent as recordings, emails and/or text messages. They will always clearly indicate that they are from the City of Cedar Hill.

Please register; it only takes a couple of minutes and we want to keep in touch. cedarhilltx.com/connect

Single-stream recycling



Aluminum cans



Newspapers



Glass bottles & jars



Tin & steel cans



Magazines & junk mail



Plastic bottles & jugs



Trash/Recycling changes are here

This reminder contains details about the trash/recycling changes that are now in effect.

Weekly collection

Residential trash and recycle materials are collected on the same day, once a week. Check the map at right for the trash/recycling collection day in your neighborhood.

Yellow = recycling

The yellow-top recycle carts are only for **recycle materials**. Recycle carts contaminated with trash will not be picked up.

Trash bags or carts

Trash can be placed in trash bags or residents may rent a 96-gal. wheeled trash cart (with a green lid) for \$2 per month. Click on the 'Access Cedar Hill' button on the City website (cedarhilltx.com) and look for "Trash Cart Ordering," or call 972.291.5100 x1003.

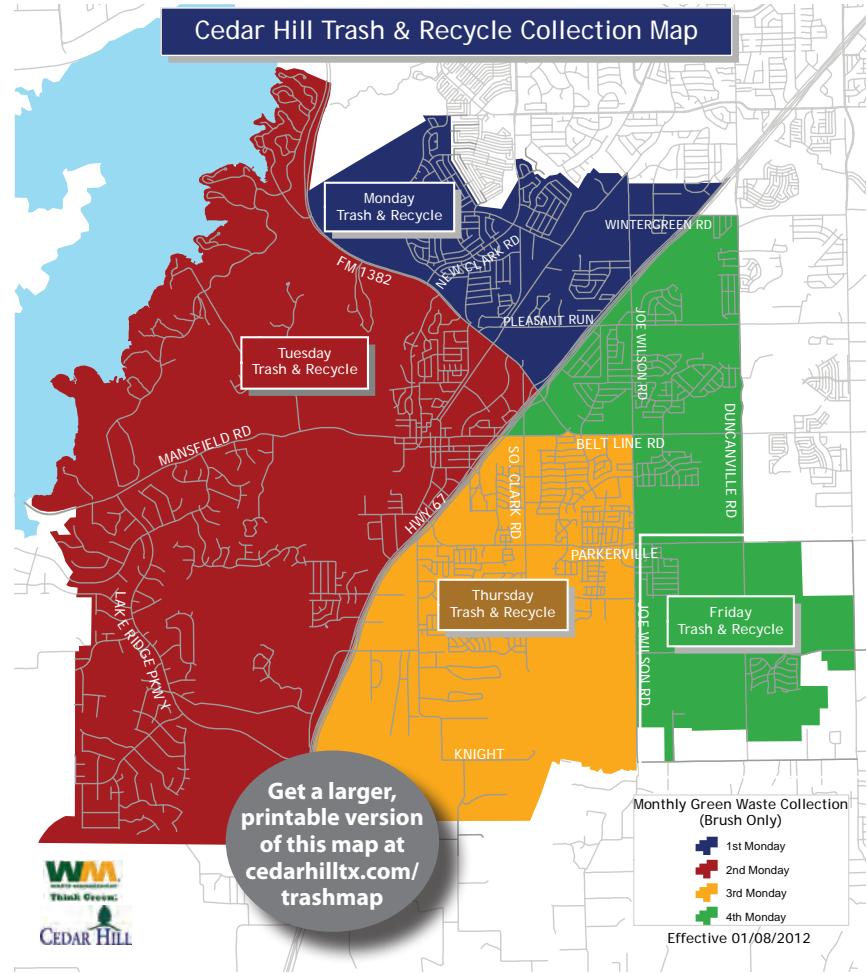
Why the changes?

The City of Cedar Hill, in partnership with Waste Management Inc. is providing the larger recycle carts to every household to encourage residents to recycle more. Only about 15% of recyclable waste has been recycled in Cedar Hill.



Single-stream recycling

Waste Management employs single-stream



recycling which means you don't have to sort your recyclable materials.

Only a few items are not acceptable for recycling: foam packaging, soiled food containers (pizza boxes), plastic grocery bags, food waste/garbage, light bulbs, window glass, mirrors or yard waste.

Green waste

Brush and tree limbs, up to 10 cu. yds., are collected monthly. View the collection map to see your green waste collection week.



Scan this code with your smartphone's QR code scanner to watch Cedar Hill's trash/recycling video.

Turn lane & traffic light

From front page

be installed to improve the safety of those entering and leaving the shopping/dining businesses on both sides of Uptown.

Traffic interruption will be kept to a minimum with only occasional, temporary lane closings to protect the workers, according to Nguyen Quang, Civil Engineer for the City

of Cedar Hill.

Construction should be completed by the end of April.

Cost for these improvements, including protected pedestrian crossings, is about \$240,000 and is funded by the City's CIP fund.

Landscaping near the new signal area will be funded by Walmart.

City Council photos

January 10, 2011



Above, City Council Member Daniel Haydin, Jr. presents a S.T.A.R. award to Malachi Randle, a seventh-grade student at Bessie Coleman Middle School.

Below, Chidozie Ogbonna, eighth grader at Permenter Middle School, received his S.T.A.R. student award from City Council Member Clifford Shaw.



Below, Jasmine Wasswa, a fourth-grade student at Plummer Elementary, points out her parents while holding her S.T.A.R. award, received from City Council Member Cory Spillman, right.



The Lake Ridge POA volunteers hosted a golf tournament at Tangle Ridge and raised \$4,000 for equipment at Station 214 on Lake Ridge Drive. The check above is presented to the Cedar Hill Fire Department by (L to R) volunteer Bill Pierce, Traci Hemminger CHFD, LRPOA Assn. Mgr. Carolyn Rollwitz, LRHOA Compliance Christine Bahr, Captain Mike Wofford, Rusty Roysden CHFD, Battalion Chief Glen Clark and Fire Chief John Ballard.

Community Calendar

February

28 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, Regular City Council Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room. Agenda posted online and at the front door of the Government Center at least 72 hours before meeting at cedarhilltx.com/agenda.

March

3 Citywide Neighborhood Block Party and Rec Center Anniversary

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville A celebration of all the great people and organizations that make Cedar Hill a premier community. Enjoy children's activities, a health fair, information about classes, entertainment, prizes and more!

5 Filing deadline for Joint Election, including City Council

Residents interested in running in the May 12 Joint Election must pick up a candidate packet in the City Secretary's office on the 4th floor of the Government Center and return it by March 5 to be eligible.

13 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, Regular City Council Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room. Agenda posted online and at the front door of the Government Center at least 72 hours before meeting at cedarhilltx.com/agenda.

24 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

9-11 a.m. Cedar Hill High School parking lot, US67 at Cooper St. Proof of residency required. Residents may bring all those nasty chemicals stacked in the garage. Don't bring explosives, computers or tires. For a full list, visit cedarhilltx.com/HHW.

24 Walk the Light Arts Festival

5-10 p.m. in Historic Downtown. Artists of all art genres will display or perform their craft inside historic downtown businesses, in Pioneer Park and on the streets. For more information visit cedarhilltx.com/walkthelight.

27 City Council Meeting

6 p.m. Briefing Session, Regular City Council Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Government Center, 285 Uptown Blvd., First Floor, Cannady Room. Agenda posted online and at the front door of the Government Center at least 72 hours before meeting at cedarhilltx.com/agenda.

April

14 Spring Community Cleanup and Arbor Day Tribute

Keeping our community clean and neat is more fun when we do it together. Registration for door prizes begins at 9 a.m. at Virginia Weaver Park, 631 Somerset. Cleanup, at the location of your choice, continues until 11 a.m. Wrap it up with a free hot dog lunch, thanks to the Lions Club, and an Arbor Day Tribute celebrating trees. Volunteers will receive a Keep Cedar Hill Beautiful t-shirt.

Second Saturdays

Cheap Chip

The Tri-City Animal Shelter hosts low-cost microchipping for pets on second Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shelter, 1150 E. Pleasant Run Rd. Those who adopt a pet on Cheap Chip Saturdays will have their picture made and can enter a drawing.

Contacts

- After Hours 972.780.6643
- Alarm Monitoring 972.230.5248
- Animal Control 972.223.6111
- City Administration 972.291.5100x1010
- City Secretary 972.291.5100x1011
- Code Enforcement 972.291.5100x1090
- Economic Develop. Corp. 972.291.5132
- Fire Department *Non-emergency* 972.291.1011
- Human Resources 972.291.5100x1050
- Library 972.291.7323
- Municipal Court 972.291.5100x1041
- Neighborhood Services 972.291.5100x1084
- Parks & Recreation 972.291.5100x1500
- Parks Rain-outs 214.855.9758
- Parks Special Events 214.890.6977
- Police Department *Non-emergency* 972.291.5100x2400
- Public Relations 469.272.2903
- Public Works 972.291.5126
- Recreation Center 972.293.5288
- Senior Center 972.291.5353
- Tri-City Animal Shelter 972.291.5335
- Utility Billing 972.291.5100x1200

Parvo threat is here

The animal shelter staff has seen 6 dogs in Cedar Hill test positive for parvovirus (parvo). According to Tri-City Animal Shelter Director Alissa Prelis, "This is an unusually high number of cases."

Protect your dog with a vaccination, even if he spends most of his time inside. Puppies require a series of vaccinations protecting against additional viruses.

Some parvo facts

- Puppies are most vulnerable.

- The virus can survive up to 6 months outside of its host.

- It is transmitted by feces, which can be picked up on paws and ingested when they are licked.

- Early signs include lethargy and loss of appetite.

- Symptoms show up 7-10 days after exposure and include vomiting and diarrhea.

- Survival depends on immediate treatment, which is expensive and requires a hospital stay.

If you suspect that your dog may be ill with this disease, or if your dog has not been recently vaccinated, contact your veterinarian immediately.

For a list of local veterinarians, you can contact the Tri-City Animal Shelter and Adoption Center at 972.291.5335.

Who answers your alarm?

- You can have your home or business alarm monitored by our local 911 Center.
- Get the fastest possible response.
- Find out about 3 months free at 972.230.5248.



Citizens' Police Academy
Sign up now,
starts March 22.
More at <http://bit.ly/A4YMxy>.

Pay Municipal Court Fees Online
cedarhilltx.com/warrants

uncorked



Thank you for reading this

We appreciate your desire to be informed. Every month, we send you the **Highlights newsletter** to let you know what's going with the City and how it may affect you. Including it in your water bill saves taxpayers, like you, about \$8,000 a month in postage and handling.

Your City Council members believe that an informed community is a better community. By staying informed, you'll know what's going on and have opportunities to become more engaged with others in your community.

The **City website at cedarhilltx.com** is a great place to keep up with what's going on, and a wonderful resource about many things in our community. Feel free to use the search function. Last year our site was visited nearly half a million times.

You may have received calls about neighborhood meetings or maybe the latest information about the trash/recycling changes. That's another way we try to keep you informed. But our starting database includes only home numbers, so if you've cancelled your home phone, like many of us, you need to register your cell phone number(s) at **cedarhilltx.com/connect**.

If you would like to be notified when new information goes up on the City website, sign up for one or more of the **Notify Me** categories at **cedarhilltx.com/notifyme**.

We've been tweeting on **Twitter** and posting news you can use on **Facebook** for a couple of years now. Last year we saw our 'fellowship' numbers increase 25-30% over the year before.

If you have an idea to help us communicate better, please send it to me at **corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com**. We will give every idea serious consideration. If you see an idea from somewhere else that seems to work, let us know.

Thanks again for reading. Keep in touch.



Published by the
City of Cedar Hill
Corky Brown,
Public Relations Manager
972.291.5100 X1032
corky.brown@cedarhilltx.com